

SENATE RESOLUTION 237—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS SHOULD HOLD HEARINGS AND THE SENATE SHOULD ACT ON THE CONVENTION OF THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was ordered to lie over, under the rule:

S. RES. 237

Whereas the United States has shown leadership in promoting human rights, including the rights of women and girls, and was instrumental in the development of international human rights treaties and norms, including the International Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);

Whereas the Senate has already agreed to the ratification of several important human rights treaties, including the Genocide Convention, the Convention Against Torture, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

Whereas CEDAW establishes a worldwide commitment to combat discrimination against women and girls;

Whereas 165 countries of the world have ratified or acceded to CEDAW and the United States is among a small minority of countries, including Afghanistan, North Korea, Iran and Sudan, which have not;

Whereas CEDAW establishes a worldwide commitment to combat discrimination against women and girls;

Whereas 165 countries of the world have ratified or acceded to CEDAW and the United States is among a small minority of countries, including Afghanistan, North Korea, Iran and Sudan, which have not;

Whereas CEDAW is helping combat violence and discrimination against women and girls around the world;

Whereas CEDAW has had a significant and positive impact on legal developments in countries as diverse as Uganda, Colombia, Brazil and South Africa, including, on citizenship rights in Botswana and Japan, inheritance rights in Botswana and Japan, inheritance rights in Tanzania, property rights and political participation in Costa Rica;

Whereas the Administration has proposed a small number of reservations, understandings and declarations to ensure that U.S. ratification fully complies with all constitutional requirements, including states' and individuals' rights;

Whereas the legislatures of California, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota and Vermont have endorsed U.S. ratification of CEDAW;

Whereas more than one hundred U.S.-based, civic, legal, religious, education, and environmental organizations, support U.S. ratification of CEDAW;

Whereas ratification of CEDAW would allow the United States to nominate a representative to the CEDAW oversight committee; and

Whereas 1999 is the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of CEDAW by the UN General Assembly: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Senate Foreign Relations Committee should hold hearings on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and

(2) the Senate should act on CEDAW by March 8, 2000, International Women's Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 238—TO AUTHORIZE REPRESENTATION OF MEMBER OF THE SENATE

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 238

Whereas, in the case of *Brett Kimberlin v. Orrin Hatch, et al.*, C.A. No. 99-1590, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the plaintiff has named as a defendant Senator Orrin G. Hatch;

Whereas; pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend Members of the Senate in civil actions relating to the official responsibilities: Now, therefore therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is directed to represent Senator Hatch in the case of *Brett Kimberlin v. Orrin Hatch, et al.*

SENATE RESOLUTION 239—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT NADIA DEBBAGH, WHO WAS ABDUCTED FROM THE UNITED STATES, SHOULD BE RETURNED HOME TO HER MOTHER, MS. MAUREEN DABBAGH

Mr. ROBB submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 239

Whereas Mr. Mohamad Hisham Dabbagh and Mrs. Maureen Dabbagh had a daughter, Nadia Dabbagh, in 1990;

Whereas Maureen Dabbagh and Mohamad Hisham Dabbagh were divorced in February 1992;

Whereas in 1993, Nadia was abducted by her father;

Whereas Mohamad Hisham fled the United States with Nadia;

Whereas the Governments of Syria and the United States have granted child custody to Maureen Dabbagh and both have issued arrest warrants for Mohamad Dabbagh;

Whereas Mohamad Dabbagh originally escaped to Saudi Arabia;

Whereas the Department of State believed that Nadia was residing in Syria until late 1998;

Whereas the Senate passed S. Res. 293 for Nadia Dabbagh on October 21, 1998, asking Syria to aid in the return of Nadia to her mother in the United States;

Whereas in 1999, Syria invited Maureen Dabbagh to Syria to meet with her daughter;

Whereas the Department of State believes that in 1999 Nadia was moved to Saudi Arabia and is residing with Mohamad Dabbagh;

Whereas although Nadia is in Saudi Arabia, neither she nor Mohamad Dabbagh are Saudi Arabian citizens;

Whereas Maureen Dabbagh, with the assistance of missing children organizations, has been unable to reunite with her daughter;

Whereas the Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Interpol have been unsuccessful in their attempts to bring Nadia back to the United States;

Whereas Maureen Dabbagh has not seen her daughter in more than six years; and

Whereas it will take the continued effort and pressure on the part of the Saudi Arabian officials to bring this case to a successful conclusion: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Governments of the United States and Saudi Arabia immediately locate Nadia and deliver her safely to her mother.

● Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I'm submitting a resolution today expressing a sense of the Senate regarding a heinous crime affecting a family in Virginia and a growing problem in this country. With this resolution, I seek to bring to your attention the plight of child abductions by noncustodial parents, and to encourage the United States and Saudi Arabia to immediately locate Nadia Dabbagh and return her safely to her mother.

Ms. Maureen Dabbagh of Virginia Beach has not seen or heard from her daughter, Nadia, in 6 years. When Nadia was just 3 years old, she was illegally abducted by her father, Mr. Mohamad Hisham Dabbagh, and the State Department believes they are currently in Saudia Arabia on temporary visas. Throughout this ordeal, Maureen Dabbagh has been aided by many caring people, groups, and government agencies, but despite FBI, State Department, and Interpol efforts, Nadia is still separated from her mother.

According to the Department of Justice, 983 children are abducted by non-custodial parents every day. I greatly sympathize with Maureen Dabbagh and with all parents facing similar situations. I believe that we, as Members of Congress and as parents, ought to use all available resources to locate missing and abducted children. I ask that we redouble our efforts to bring Nadia home.●

SENATE RESOLUTION 240—COMMENDING STEPHEN G. BALE, KEEPER OF THE STATIONERY

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 240

Whereas the Senate has been advised that its Keeper of the Stationery, Stephen G. Bale, will retire on December 31, 1999;

Whereas Steve Bale became an employee of the Senate of the United States on November 13, 1969, and since that date has ably and faithfully upheld the high standards and traditions of the Senate for a period that included sixteen Congresses;

Whereas Steve Bale has served with distinction as Keeper of the Stationery, and at all times has discharged the important duties and responsibilities of his office with dedication and excellence, and

Whereas his exceptional service and his unfailing dedication have earned him our esteem and affection: Now, therefore, be it